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TAGS: [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [OPRC](#) [PTER](#) [CI](#) [IR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA: IRAN, NUCLEAR  
PROGRAM

On February 2, business and financial daily "Diario Financiero"  
(circ. 20,000) carried a column by Leonidas Irarrazaval on Iran.  
Quotes:

"Now we must wait and see what the West does with a new Iranian leader...who wants Iran to have the same nuclear might as the Western powers, India, Pakistan and probably Israel. Is it moral to prevent him from doing so?.... Not even the UN will be able to stop him, because countries needing Iran's oil--such as Russia and China--have a veto. If Bush manages to emerge from the Afghan and Iraqi quagmire with sufficient time remaining in office he might launch a new crusade against Iran...and the result may be equally uncertain."

KELLY